Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of alkyl salicylic acids comprising reacting salicylic acid with an olefin having at least four carbon atoms at an elevated temperature in the range of from about 50°C to about 200°C in the presence of a perfluoroalkylsulfonic acid, an alkylsulfonic acid, or an acidic clay as a catalyst.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the catalyst is anhydrous methanesulfonic acid.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

4. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1 wherein said elevated temperature is in the range of from about 120° to about 160° C.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an alkyl salicylic acid prepared by a process comprising reacting salicylic acid with an olefin having at least four carbon atoms at an elevated temperature in the range of from about 50°C to about 200°C in the presence of a perfluoroalkylsulfonic acid, an alkylsulfonic acid, or an acidic clay as a catalyst.

8. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 7 wherein the catalyst is anhydrous methanesulfonic acid.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 8 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 7 wherein said elevated temperature is in the range of from about 120° to about 160° C.

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin comprises a mixture of C_{14}-C_{18} α-olefins.

15. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin comprises a blend of C_{20}, C_{22}, and C_{24} α-olefins.

16. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin comprises propylene pentamer.

17. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin comprises 2-methyl-1-undecene.

18. (New) The composition of claim 7 wherein the olefin comprises a mixture of C_{14}-C_{18} α-olefins.

19. (New) The composition of claim 7 wherein the olefin comprises a blend of C_{20}, C_{22}, and C_{24} α-olefins.

20. (New) The composition of claim 7 wherein the olefin comprises propylene pentamer.

21. (New) The composition of claim 7 wherein the olefin comprises 2-methyl-1-undecene.